

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05002 021025Z

21

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5002

DEPT FOR A/SY, SCA, PPT, EUR/EX AND EUR/CE

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CGEN, CPAS, GE

SUBJ: DOCUMENTATION FOR SEABEES

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE UNIQUE POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN BERLIN, CONSIDERS VARIOUS DOCUMENTATION OPTIONS FOR SEABEES ASSIGNED TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT SEABEES WILL BE IN PLACE MORE THAN THREE MONTHS, WE BELIEVE THEY MUST BE INTRODUCED TO MFA AS PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF IF IT IS PROPOSED TO OBTAIN FOR THEM EITHER DIPLOMATIC (REF) OR SERVICE (GREEN) I.D. CARDS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT SEABEES SHOULD HAVE DIPLOMATIC (REF) I.D. CARDS TO HELP THEM PASS FREELY BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN AND TO GIVE THEM FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN THEIR ENCOUNTERS WITH GDR OFFICIALS. A SERVICE I.D. HAS THE DISADVANTAGES OF FREQUENTLY ELICITING GDR DEMANDS AT INTRA-CITY SECTOR CROSSING POINTS FOR DISPLAY OF PASSPORT AND GDR VISA, AND OF SUGGESTING THAT THE BEARER IS LESS THAN FULLY ENTITLED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05002 021025Z

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES.

4. WE HAVE CONSIDERED AND REJECTED HAVING THE SEABEES USE THE YELLOW FORCES CARD ISSUED BY THE U.S. MILITARY IN WEST BERLIN BECAUSE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GDR WOULD PERMIT U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO WEST BERLIN AND NOT INTRODUCED THROUGH NORMAL PROTOCOL PROCEDURES TO HAVE CONTINUOUS AND FORMAL ACCESS TO THE CHANCERY STRUCTURE. THE SEABEES, MOREOVER, ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE U.S. FORCES IN BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCCUPATION OF THE CITY. THE SEABEES WILL USE A STATE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE FOR NORMAL TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE QUARTERS THEY WILL ESTABLISH IN WEST BERLIN AND THE CHANCERY SITE AFTER A SHORT RESIDENCE IN AN EAST BERLIN HOTEL FOR ACCREDITATION PURPOSES. (THE EMBASSY DOES NOT ENVISAGE THE SEABEES LIVING IN AN EAST BERLIN HOTEL FOR SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS AND WILL NOT BE REQUESTING AN APARTMENT FOR THEM HERE). IT WOULD ALSO BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO BE AUTHORIZED TO DRIVE A STATE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE, LICENSED, REGISTERED, AND INSURED AS IT IS UNDER GDR LAW, WITH YELLOW FORCES CARDS.

5. BASED ON OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, WE CAN ONLY BE CERTAIN THAT A GDR DIPLOMATIC I.D. CARD WILL BE ISSUED TO AN EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER IF THIS PERSON IS THE BEARER OF A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS, WHO HAVE OFFICIAL PASSPORTS, HAVE ALSO RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC I.D.'S. BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY EXPLAINED THE PERMANENT NATURE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS TO THE MFA; IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT IN THIS CASE THE EAST GERMANS HAVE SOUGHT TO ENSURE RECIPROCITY FOR THEIR WASHINGTON STAFF.

6. THE QUESTION ALSO ARISES WHETHER SEABEES SHOULD BE GIVEN DIPLOMATIC TITLES TO OBTAIN GDR IDENTIFICATION CARDS. TWO OPTIONS EXIST: (A) TO REFRAIN FROM ASSIGNING SUCH TITLES AND APPLYING FOR DIPLOMATIC I.D.'S BY DESCRIBING SEABEES AS "MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" AS IS THE CASE WITH THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS; OR (B) TO ASSIGN THEM A TITLE SUCH AS "SECRETARY-ARCHIVIST" OR "ASSISTANT ATTACHE" AND APPLY FOR THEIR I.D.'S

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05002 021025Z

INTRUDUCING THEM AS SUCH.

7. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS PROCEEDING WITH OPTION (A) IN PARAGRAPH 6 ABOVE. OPTION (A) PRESENTS THE SEABEES IN THE CAPACITY IN WHICH THEY WILL ACTUALLY BE SERVING HERE AND IS THEREFORE DEFENSIBLE.

8. THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED.COOPER

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